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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Applicants : Raymond J. O'Neill and Raymond J. O'Neill, Jr.
 Serial No. : 10/829,469
 Filing Date : April 21, 2004
 Title of Invention : TRANSPORTABLE BASKETBALL SYSTEM HAVING WIND-TRANSMISSIVE MESH BACKBOARD STRUCTURE AND SAND-ANCHORABLE POST ASSEMBLY WITH THREADS AND HANDLES FOR SAFE, SIMPLE AND QUICK INSTALLATION ALONG BEACHES, SHORELINES AND OTHER SAND-COVERED OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTS
 Examiner : Michael Chambers
 Group Art Unit : 3711
 Attorney Docket No. : 121-001USANB0

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
 and Trademarks
 Washington, DC 20231

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97

Sir:

In order to fulfill Applicants' continuing obligation of candor and good faith as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.56, Applicants submit herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement prepared in accordance with 37 C.F.R Sections 1.97, 1.98 and 1.99.

The disclosures enclosed herewith are as follows:

U.S. PUBLICATIONS

| <u>NUMBER</u> | <u>FILING DATE</u> | <u>TITLE</u> |
|---------------|--------------------|---|
| 6,766,623 | March 18, 2003 | FOLDABLE, EXPANDABLE FRAMEWORK FOR A VARIETY OF STRUCTURAL PURPOSES |
| 6,732,985 | February 20, 2003 | BEACH UTILITY POLE |
| 6,547,203 | December 14, 2001 | RETRACTABLE ANCHORING DEVICE |
| 6,446,649 | September 13, 2000 | APPARATUS FOR ANCHORING AN UMBRELLA |
| 5,697,190 | November 13, 1995 | EARTH ANCHORED POLE APPARATUS |

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------|---|
| 5,662,304 | June 26, 1995 | DEVICE FOR ANCHORING OBJECTS INTO BEACH SAND |
| 5,482,246 | June 17, 1994 | ANCHORING DEVICE HAVING AN AUGER AND A SPIRAL-SHAPED MEMBER MOUNTED TO A DISTAL END OF THE ANCHORING DEVICE |
| 5,457,918 | March 6, 1995 | ANCHORING DEVICE FOR UMBRELLAS |
| 5,271,196 | December 13, 1991 | STABILIZER RETENTION DEVICE FOR BEACH UMBRELLAS |
| 5,088,681 | May 17, 1991 | ANCHOR DEVICE |

STATEMENT OF PERTINENCE

U.S. Patent No. 6,766,623 to Kalnay discloses a foldable, deployable framework for a structure which has a lower hub having a first central axis, sets of tracks, masts, and rafters connected pivotally to the lower hub, to one another, and to an upper hub in a manner that allows the framework to be folded into one, two or three small packages, and to be deployed into a structural frame supporting floors, walls, and roof for an enclosed structure. In different versions folding and deployment is accomplished in a different way. Structures based on the framework can be made for many and varied purposes.

U.S. Patent No. 6,732,985 to Cantrell discloses a multi-segmented central post member with upper, middle and lower sections having a cup-holding element, a utility member and a clothes-hanging element having a plurality of hook members extending therefrom. The post segments have compatible male and female threads on their respective ends for establishing a rectilinear connection to the mating post segment. The bottom segment has a first end which is tapered for easy insertion in sand or turf. The threaded male portions of the post segments are radially offset from the outer circumference to form retaining flanges for the accessory units. The ends of the post segments with the threaded female recesses have a similar retaining flange. The accessory units have central recesses with a diameter slightly greater than the threaded male portion but less than the diameter of the post segment thereby engaging the post segment during assembly by inserting the threaded male portion through the central storage. An elastic cord is provided wherein one end thereof passes through a retaining aperture of one post segment and the other end thereof passes through the retaining aperture on another post segment. An auger-like tip on the tapered end of the bottom post segment is also disclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 6,547,203 to Willard discloses a retractable anchoring device comprised of a hollow tubular member, and auger and a fastener. The retractable anchoring device may move from a retracted position in which the auger is within the hollow tubular member, to a protracted position where the auger is exposed and may be driven into the ground whereby the hollow tubular member can support shade providing device.

U.S. Patent No. 6,446,649 to Bigford discloses an apparatus and method for anchoring an umbrella that has a shaft. The apparatus includes a plurality of containers that can contain a material or object that provides weight to the containers, preferably equal to the combined weight of the umbrella and the shaft.

U.S. Patent No. 5,697,190 to Scribner discloses a pole and pole support for anchoring the pole to the earth, having an earth anchor with an earth attaching portion on one end and an attaching head on the other end thereof. The pole has a pole attaching member attached to one end and a pole to earth anchor attaching mechanism rotatably attaches the pole to the earth anchor by connecting the earth anchor attaching head to the pole attaching member such that the pole can rotate relative to the earth anchor. A support base has a flange plate having an upright support sleeve attached thereto which can be positioned over or around one end of the pole and over the earth anchor attaching mechanism and attaching head to hold the pole in an upright position while allowing the rotation of the pole. The support base can be attached to the pole for rotation therewith.

U.S. Patent No. 5,662,304 to McDaniel discloses a hollow, molded cylindrical screw-threaded device for removably anchoring objects such as beach umbrellas, ropes, pet leashes, and the like into sand, comprising a hollow cylinder with two fixed molded perpendicular winglike projections for its insertion. A thumbscrew in the side of the cylinder allows for grasping and release of objects inserted into the anchoring device. Screw threads which taper in diameter and depth successively as the tip is approached allow for easier insertion into compact deeper sand and also for firmer anchoring in looser surface sand. Beveled lower thread surfaces allow for easier insertion of the device and flat upper thread surfaces afford greater resistance against forcible removal of the device from the sand. Movable loops of two alternate designs allow for pivoting attachment points for ropes, pet leashes and the like.

U.S. Patent No. 5,482,246 to Derkoski discloses an anchoring device having an auger disposed circumferentially around the device and a spiral-shaped member mounted to a distal end of the device to facilitate insertion of the device into sand or loose dirt. The auger preferably includes a radially outward edge which is upwardly curved to give the auger a generally scoop-shaped configuration. This scoop-shaped configuration is capable of entering the ground and retaining earthen materials and thereby provides a significant anchoring effect. The anchoring device is either attachable to the bottom end of a device to be anchored, such as an umbrella post, or is integrally formed therewith.

U.S. Patent No. 5,457,918 to Plourde discloses an anchoring device for anchoring a post into a ground surface made of granular material. The anchoring device is particularly well adapted to anchor a beach umbrella into the sand. The anchoring device has a sleeve section and an integrally extending insertion section. The sleeve section defines a post receiving channel adapted to receive the post. The insertion section has a conically tapering configuration. A pair of parallel insertion threads extends integrally from the outer surface of the insertion section and a portion of the sleeve section. The parallel threads facilitate the insertion into the sand and further stabilize the device. A locking sleeve extends integrally from the sleeve section adjacent its top end. The locking sleeve defines a threaded locking channel that emerges into the post receiving channel. A handle sleeve also extends integrally from the sleeve section. The handle sleeve is diametrically

opposed to the locking sleeve. The handle sleeve defines a handle channel that also emerges into the post receiving channel. A locking-handle component having an "L"-shaped configuration and a threaded end section are adapted to be slidably inserted into the handle sleeve channel and threadably inserted into the locking channel for respectively acting as a handle and releasably locking the post into the post receiving channel.

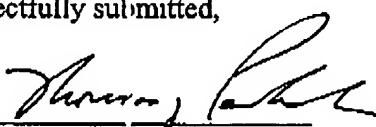
U.S. Patent No. 5,271,196 to Fanti discloses a stabilizer-retention device for beach umbrellas which will substantially increase the total static retention forces and lateral stability of beach umbrellas thereby alleviating or preventing lifting forces caused by steady winds and/or gusts causing a beach umbrella to become dislodged from the sand in which it is supported to becoming tilted or upset, thereby greatly facilitating use of beach umbrellas in a more stable, secure and safe manner. The device involves an attachment or modification of the supporting rod or standard that is normally inserted into the sand to increase the lateral stability and static retention of the umbrella. Various embodiments of the device are disclosed including a plate attached to the lower end of the supporting rod which may be circular, square or polygonal with various methods of attachment or an open-topped container embedded in the sand for receiving the beach umbrella rod or standard. The plate attached to the lower end of the supporting rod or standard can be used as a digging implement to facilitate excavation of a vertical cavity in the sand in which to place the plate-like structure at the lower end of the beach umbrella supporting rod or standard.

U.S. Patent No. 5,088,681 to Procaccianti et al. discloses an anchor device for use on the stake of a beach umbrella, including a main body having a semi-circular cross-section and a flight that extends helically around the main body and is fastened to it at two longitudinally-spaced position lines of contact therewith.

A separate listing of the above references on PTO Form 1449 is attached hereto for the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

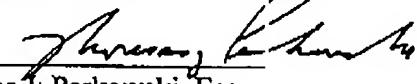
Dated: March 3, 2005



Thomas J. Perkowski
Reg. No. 33,134
Attorney for Applicants
Thomas J. Perkowski, Esq., P.C.
Soundview Plaza
1266 East Main Street
Stamford, Connecticut 06902
203-357-1950
<http://www.tjpalaw.com>

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE SERVICE UNDER
37 CFR 1.06(d)

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Thomas J. Perkowski, Esq.

Date: March 3, 2005

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT**

Sheet 1 of 2

| Complete If Known | |
|------------------------|---|
| Application Number | 10/829,469 |
| Filing Date | April 21, 2004 |
| First Name Inventor | Raymond J. O'Neill and Raymond J. O'Neill, Jr. |
| Group Art Unit | 3711 |
| Examiner Name | Michael Chambers |
| Attorney Docket Number | 121-001USANB0 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. | U.S. Patent Documents | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Int'l Class / Sub Class |
|-------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------------------|---|--|-------------------------|
| | | Number | Kind Code (if known) | | | |
| | | 6,766,623 | | Kalnay | 07/27/2004 | E04B 1/32 |
| | | 6,732,985 | | Cantrell | 05/11/2004 | A47F 5/00 |
| | | 6,547,203 | | Willard | 04/15/2003 | F16M 13/00 |
| | | 6,446,649 | | Bigford | 09/10/2002 | A45B 3/00 |
| | | 5,697,190 | | Scribner | 12/16/1997 | F02O 27/42 |
| | | 5,662,304 | | McDaniel | 09/02/1997 | B65D 63/00 |
| | | 5,482,246 | | Derkoski | 01/09/1996 | F16M 13/00 |
| | | 5,457,918 | | Plourde | 10/17/1995 | A45F 3/44 |
| | | 5,271,196 | | Fanti | 12/21/1993 | E02D 5/74 |
| | | 5,088,681 | | Procaccianti et al. | 02/18/1992 | A01K 97/10 |

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT – SECTION 9 PTO-1449)

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